Father Darkleaf

Cont'd from Page 1

ment, and I have been a Good Boy all year!

* * *

Letters to Santa: Checked at the post office and not many had arrived. Maybe the snow will "Bring Them In". I believe in Santa. I write to thank him for Thomasville's Appomattox project, for all the fine civic clubs we have, for good government, for the National Park Service, good eating places, good business places, great churches, faithful employees, the Rescue Squad, Volunteer Firemen, and to you,

We
wish you
A Happy Holiday
May Peace
Never cease
May joy increase
And Blessings galore be yours
in '74

National Insurance Program Adopted By County

Cont'd from Page 1

adopted Friday when the Board of Supervisors met in regular session.

In a special meeting held on November 27th, the Board failed to adopt the ordinance as written but gave their approval on Friday, subject to approval of Sam Kerr, Attorney for Appomattox County, after several revisions were made.

Some changes were made in the fee structure and others in the terminology of some parts thus making the meaning clearer to contractors in all phases of construction.

In other business, the Board of Supervisors voted to pay Claude Allen Moore, Voting Machine Operator, $50.00 per election for setting up and serving the automatic voting machines in the county for Countywide elections. The pay-rate will be subject to increase as additional voting machines are added in the Appomattox County area.

Lloyd Walton, Superintendent of Appomattox County Schools, appeared before the board to report on the construction progress at the new high school and to make a request for monthly financial appropriations.

Walton informed the board members that heating systems in schools had been adjusted to meet the energy crisis and every effort was being made to conserve energy.

Otho W. Martin, Chairman of the Board, commended Supt. Walton and school administrators on the Oakville Kindergarten and on the work done to the building at such a nominal cost and said it would be worth while for more people to visit the facility at Oakville and see just what has been accomplished there.

Bill West, Bureau of Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and Bruce Bowen, Central Va. Planning Commission, appeared before the board to advise members that Appomattox County has been added to the Lynchburg Standard Metroplitan Area as 30% of the work force of this county at the present time goes into Campbell County, Amherst County or the City of Lynchburg to work.

Appomattox County will be divided into two census tracts set up to follow magesterial districts as near as possible. The census, taken every ten years, will next be taken in 1980, however, a census of business and a census of industry, taken every five years, will be taken again in 1977.

With the changes being made, the Bureau of Census will be able to give a more accurate census of the county and will be able to furnish more detailed public information.

In other business, the board authorized Gene Richardson, Sheriff of Appomattox County, to get bids for a new car for the Department and to present the bids to the board for approval.

The Board of Supervisors also authorized Sam Kerr, County Attorney, to draw up an ordinance requiring the registration of and otherwise regulating peddling, solicitation, and canvassing in the county for approval by the board.

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School Officials Concerned Over Return To DST

Cont'd from Page 1

tant; and Garland Gay, Architect; included Board Members, Administrators and Frank Coffey, representative of Appomattox Education Association.

Mr. Chuchek reported that construction was on schedule and an anticipated enrollment of 800 students is expected for the Fall of 1974 at the new senior high school.

In other business the board adopted a policy to conserve energy in every way possible. Heating systems have been adjusted and other steps are being taken whenever possible.

R. B. Carter, Supervisor of Vocational Education, presented to the board a tentative schedule of course offerings for the 1974-75 school session. In keeping with the Standards of Quality, courses have been designed to train more students in Vocational Education for immediate employment following graduation.

With the opening of the new high school, space will be available for additional Vocational Education courses.

Members of the School Board tentatively approved the course offerings.

The athletic program as established for 1973-74 was approved by the board but members agreed that fewer buses for travel, whenever possible, would be used for out-of-town athletic events.

Eugene Peyton, Director of Instruction, reported to the board regarding the possibility fo obtaining additional Title I Funds. These funds are being used in Grades 1 through 3 for Math and Reading skills and if the additional funds are approved an additional resource teacher will be hired to help in this phase of the educational program.

Have You Ever Seen a Galanty?

This was the old name for the shows put on at Christmas time by traveling entertainers, who projected shadow shows in pantomime, using silhouetted figures, by means of a magic lantern. The galanty shows were projected on a white sheet, or on the ceiling. But before long, magic lanterns became cheap and plentiful, so people had them in their homes, with an array of colored slides—and this became a popular home entertainment.

Now, many years later, and in spite of the attractions of television, the lineal descendants of those early magic lanterns continue to fascinate us. Who hasn't seen a series of color slides, usually the well-known "pictures of our trip," proudly shown by photographer friends?

County Line

Central Church will have their Christmas Program on Friday night at 7:30 p. m., December 21st. The name of the play is "In The Same Country". Program director is Mrs. Loretta Mayberry and young group is directed by Mrs. Lively.

The young married couples Sunday School Class of Central Church enjoyed a Christmas Dinner at Jeanne's Restaurant Sunday evening. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mann, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mullins, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Scruggs and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Nash visited Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Nash Sunday. Mr. Nash is improving nicely. Those visiting in this home were: Mr. Richard Nash, Mr. and Mrs. Twyman Nash, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Painter, Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Tucker, Rev. W. H. Elder, Mr. John Covington, Mr. Pearlie Jones, Mr. Freddie Wooldridge, George Davis, Lloyd Nash of Concord, Cecil Nash, Mr. and Mrs. George D. Nash and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mann and boys.

Mrs. David Carson has been sick with an ear infection. Mrs. Richard Nash visited her last Wednesday.

The Legend of Christmas Tinsel

According to an old legend, a poor peasant woman, with many children, decorated a Christmas tree with such humble trimmings as she was able to gather, mostly berries and nuts and such odds and ends as she had managed to save up during the year. She labored far into the night trying to make her tree as beautiful as she could.

While she was asleep, spiders came and crawled from branch to branch trailing their lacy webs behind them. To reward the woman for her devotion, The Christ Child blessed the tree and all the spider webs were turned into gleaming silver.

RED HOLLY BERRIES

A legend relates that on the first Christmas night, when the shepherds went to the manger, a little lamb following them was caught by the holly thorns, and the red berries are the drops of its blood that froze on the branches.

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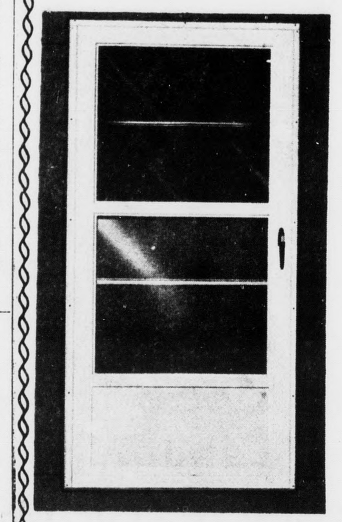

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Art Spreads Story Of His Birth

The Nativity scene has always stimulated and challenged painters and sculptors.

In turn, great works of art depicting the story of the birth of Christ have, through the years, enriched the lives and enhanced the spiritual insights of millions.

Earliest Christian art was simple and graphic, as clear and easy to appreciate as a comic strip.

Later, religious paintings became stilted.

Then, Italian Renaissance painters instilled renewed warmth and humanity into art, renewing, too, individual art appreciation, through their natural, lifelike creations.

Their work gained much from the stimulus of the changing times and the new approach to art, fostered by the support of the Medici and commissions for paintings and sculpture from the church.

For instance, Raphael, famous for the "Sistine Madonna," came to Rome from Florence to do a fresco decoration in the Vatican at the same time that Michelangelo was painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Artists from other countries, too, traveled to Italy, there to experience and be influenced by Renaissance thought and feeling.

* * *

Mistletoe Has Powers

Mysterious powers by the dozens have been credited to mistletoe, among them the power to heal, to ward off evil, to summon ghosts and force them to answer questions.

At present, the most prized property of mistletoe is the license it gives for plenty of Yuletide kissing. Fortunately, there's plenty of mistletoe.

Thanks to the birds, the plant spreads widely. The birds eat mistletoe berries and carry the seeds to trees near and far, say the editors of the Encyclopedia International.

CANING EVIL

Because candy canes have the legendary ability to ward off evil, they became part of Christmas, bringing good.

Christians Celebrate Holy Day With Prayer and Thanksgiving

For those who celebrate Christmas as a holy day, the holiday is greeted with rejoicing, with prayer and thanksgiving, in church and private devotions.

The word "greeting" has a special significance here, for herald angels singing to shepherds in the fields and a star shining in the heavens truly brought greetings—according to the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, "good news of great joy which will come to all people."

Long before the December 25 birthdate of Christ was celebrated in devotions, it had marked a season set aside for another kind of greeting. In Northern Europe, Teutonic tribes of pagan times greeted the rebirth of the sun, of the winter solstice.

Earliest celebrations of Christmas combined some of the ancient pagan traditions. By association with Christian beliefs, old customs of greeting the sun became symbolic of a recognition—a greeting of faith, hope and life eternal.

SHEAF OF GRAIN A SCANDINAVIAN CUSTOM

Scandinavian farmers traditionally practice the custom of attaching a sheaf of grain to a pole and placing it out in the snow as a Christmas feast for birds, often with suet added as an extra treat. It is said that no peasant would sit down to Christmas dinner until the birds had been provided for.

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Snowfall Accumulates 10 - 15 Inches In County

The first measurable snowfall of the season dumped 10 to 15 inches of the white "stuff" throughout Appomattox County before ending in the afternoon on Monday.

Traffic was moving slowly late Sunday evening and Monday with driving conditions becoming hazardous. Schools throughout the county were closed Monday and Tuesday but were expected to open on Wednesday morning, weather permitting.

After this beautiful snowfall, don't know about anyone else, but we're hoping for a White Christmas, too.

Decorating for Christmas

Indoors, outdoors, all around the house—Christmas is the season for decorating, and what a wealth of decorations there are!

The tree seems to be just the beginning. Its ornaments and lights become continually more varied and delightful.

Wreaths and greens, plants and bouquets, table centerpieces and window adornments appear in the home.

Outdoors, decorations range from a string of lights and a wreath on the door to manger scenes to such creations as Santa, sleigh and reindeer up on the roof-top. Some of the yard and roof embellishments are real works of art—no wonder communities give prizes for outdoor decorating and lighting.

A diversity of designs for decorating are ready-made, offering welcome help during the bustling holiday season. Still, it's fun to use personal ingenuity and creativity in making unusual Yule decorations, suggest the editors of the Grolier Universal Encyclopedia.

One thought might appeal to bird-lovers: Place a wreath, ready- or hand-made, outside a window. "Decorate" it with treats tasty to birds, such as peanuts, popcorn, cranberries and bits of suet.

Simple, personal touches make a difference. For instance, greens, ribbons and glittering balls can be attractively arranged on a table or wall.

Just putting some colorful ornaments and pine cones in a big glass bowl brightens things up.

Get the kids to stringing cranberries and popcorn in the good old-fashioned way.

It's surprising how pleasingly they blend with the modern marvels of tree ornaments.

Every area of the home deserves some holiday accents. How about fastening candy canes to a broad, bright ribbon and draping it around the kitchen bulletin board?

For the more ambitious, there's the kissing bunch, an old English tradition.

An easy way to make one is to buy a ball of plastic foam. Greens—red-berried holly for color, mistletoe for kissing—can be inserted in the foam ball. Then a gala red bow and length of ribbon to hang it by are all that's needed.

Too late for this season? Much of the joy of Christmas is planning for the next one.

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa:
I have been a good boy. Please bring me a Big Josh and camper, watch and gun and holster set. Please bring my little brother, Edward, some toys, also.

Thank you Santa,
Michael Martin

Dear Santa:
I have been a good boy. Please bring me Big Jim and rescue Outfit, radio and gun and holster set. Bring a foot-pool game for the family.

Thank you Santa,
A. C. Martin, Jr.

Route 3, Box 336
Appomattox, Va. 24522
December 17, 1973

Dear Santa,
Hope this letter finds you, Santa, your elves and reindeers fine.

Hope it isn't too cold in the North Pole. It isn't too cold here but snow. I have been an good girl this year. Hope you will bring me some of the following things: Barbie's Beauty Center, Sew-Magic Sewing Machine, Clothes, Pottery set, Tea Set, Candle Set, Knitting set, a gift, Scramble game, apples, oranges, nuts and 3 piece doll lugguage set.

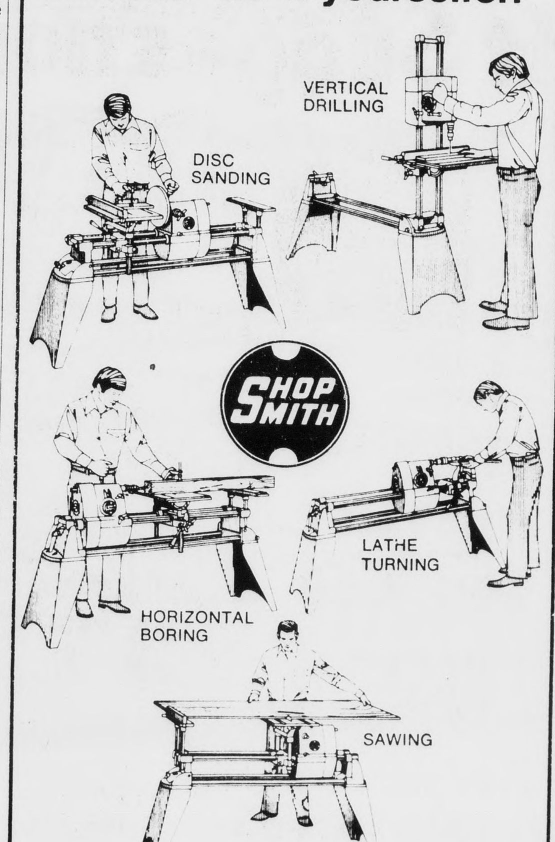
Always,
Jacqueline Annette Evans

1752 Calendar Set Christmas Date on Dec. 25

We know that our calendar today is a relatively modern institution. But do we realize that in earliest times, Christmas was celebrated on January 18? It is still so celebrated by the Armenian church. Later on, the date became January 6—and it was only in 1752, with the final change to the Gregorian calendar, that the rearrangement of dates placed Christmas Day on December 25.

Some church people in England were very indignant when this change took place — feeling that somehow they had been robbed of 11 days and the corresponding wages. Some of them tried to find out if the new date were correct by noting whether or not the tree called the Glastonbury Thorn (supposedly planted by Joseph of Arimathea) would flower on the new date or the old. Sometimes the tree bloomed on one day and sometimes on the other, however, depending on the weather — so that supporters of both dates managed to keep up the quarrel for some time.

Here's the perfect Christmas gift for your favorite "do-it-yourselfer."



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Yule Lives In Legend And Lore

Twinkling on trees, glowing from windows, glittering everywhere, Christmas lights reflect, today, the candles of an earlier time.

A candle in the window can light the Christ Child on his way, says Irish legend.

Nativity scenes in homes and churches depict the animals of the Manger—and on Christmas Eve, the cattle, the sheep and all the animals present at the Nativity are given the gift of speech.

So says the lore of Christmas.

Blossoming on the holiday scene, greens and flowers spread their beauty and fragrance, reminding all of the living wonder of Christmas.

In legend, all flowers bloom at midnight on Christmas Eve, just as they did more than 2,000 years ago.

The legend and lore of Christmas expresses the simple faith that lies at the heart of this happy, holy time.

Some of the most delightful of legends are told in carols.

From France comes the "Carol of the Birds." Its words recount how the birds flew to Bethlehem to behold the Christ Child. Each bird, as it flew, sang a special song of praise and rejoicing.

There's a "Carol of the Flowers," too. Summoned to the presence of the newborn King, every flower blossomed, and each blossom was a symbol of the Little One's virtues.

Seafaring peoples, in their own way, related nature's wonders to the miracle of the Nativity, through carols.

"I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing" tells of ships crossing the sea on Christmas morn, bearing Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

"Feast of Lights"

Over 1400 years ago, the Council of Tours decreed that the celebration of Christmas should continue on for twelve days through Epiphany, which falls on January 6th. This day, also known as "The Feast of Lights," is still observed by many churches.

It became customary, through the centuries, for the reigning King of England to open Twelfth Night revels by throwing dice. In the 17th century, Charles II played for high stakes, winning 150 pounds one year and losing 100 pounds the next, both tremendous sums for that period.

Festivities included choosing a King and Queen of the feast. Slices of a plum cake containing a bean and a pea were served and the man who got the bean and the woman who got the pea were crowned King and Queen. With toasts to the royal pair, the party got into full swing. Revels wound up with final kisses under the mistletoe. Before sunrise, all the Christmas greens had to be taken down because of the prevailing superstition that a goblin would appear for each leaf that was not removed in time.

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